

Onley Town Council Minutes of March 5, 2012

VIRGINIA: At a Regular Monthly Meeting of the Onley Town Council held at the Onley Fire & Rescue Building on the 5th day of March, A.D., 2012:

Members Present: Billye D. Custis, Mayor
Billy Chance
Dawn Dize
Lance Eller
Ned Finney
Jack Pierson, Vice-Mayor
Don Strautz

Staff Present: Walter Marks, OPD Chief of Police
Jamy Salazar, Treasurer
Cela Burge, Town Attorney
David Engelhart, Zoning Administrator

Call to Order

The Regular Monthly Town Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Custis at 6:30pm. The invocation was given by Ned Finney. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by Lance Eller.

Adoption of Agenda

Mayor Custis welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked that the Broadband presentation be moved on the agenda to when Mr. Pascoretti arrives.

Motion: To adopt the agenda with the change by Lance Eller and seconded by Ned Finney. Vote: Chance-yes; Dize-yes; Eller-yes; Finney-yes; Pierson-yes; Strautz-yes. MOTION PASSED

Consideration of Minutes

Ms. Dize asked to make several spelling corrections.

Motion: To approve the Minutes of the February 6, 2012 Regular Monthly Council Meeting with corrections by Lance Eller and seconded by Don Strautz. Vote: Chance-yes; Dize-yes; Eller-yes; Finney-yes; Pierson-yes; Strautz-yes. MOTION PASSED

Broadband Presentation

Nick Pascoretti stated that the Broadband Authority was created by Accomack County about three years ago and has received funding from various agencies. He discussed where Broadband is right now as well as where they are headed. They are connected from Virginia Beach to the Maryland state line. They have built in Cape Charles, Exmore, Onancock and Parksley as well as some other areas. He stated that all of the schools with the exception of Tangier are using Broadband as well. The one thing that they cannot do at this time is service small business areas so what they're trying to do is put together an incentive plan to provide discounted band width to the Towns who in turn can use it as a service provider for small businesses and residential markets. He stated that most Towns are using Eastern Shore Communications as the provider but this is not a requirement. There was some discussion about towers and tower ordinances. Mr. Pascoretti stated that line of sight from the Onancock water tower is 10 miles. He concluded by adding that there is no obligation or cost to the Town, the Internet is free for the first six months and discounted for the second six months and at month 13 a decision will be made by the Town as to whether they want to continue to use it. Mr. Engelhart asked Mr. Pascoretti to send him a copy of the sample RFP that they use to find service providers. Mayor Custis thanked Mr. Pascoretti for his time.

Department Reports

Police Report & Schedule

Mr. Strautz asked Chief Marks why he thinks there are so many calls to assist Accomack County. Chief Marks stated that they have a lot of younger deputies who often call for assistance. He added that they also assist us when necessary.

Motion: To approve the April 2012 Police Schedule by Lance Eller and seconded by Dawn Dize. Vote: Chance-yes; Dize-yes; Eller-yes; Finney-yes; Pierson-yes; Strautz-yes. MOTION PASSED

Mayor Custis stated that the new car is having equipment installed; the USDA requires a title application and certificate of origin before they can close the grant. As soon as they are acquired, an application for title can be submitted to DMV and the USDA. It will take approximately two weeks for closing.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Salazar stated that there are some additional payables for Council to approve. She gave a report on the amount of money held in deposit and asked if there were any questions about her report. Mr. Eller asked what the ANEC water tank bill is. She stated that it is the electricity at the water tank building over by the agriculture building.

Motion: To pay the Payables by Lance Eller and seconded by Don Strautz. Vote: Chance-yes; Dize-yes; Eller-yes; Finney-yes; Pierson-yes; Strautz-yes. MOTION PASSED

Mayor Custis stated that as of this month, we are at 71% on revenue and expenses are at 65%.

Zoning

Mr. Engelhart stated that he has received a special use permit application from Royal Farms. They want to put up two signs that exceed our size limit. He gave a copy to Jan Siglin for the Planning Commission as well.

Since our last meeting, he has met with RSMH and the Accomack County Planning Department about the entrance to the hospital as well as the traffic pattern/flow.

Mr. Engelhart stated that he sent Mr. Nicolls a letter on Tuesday of last week informing him of our intention to remove the vehicles at his expense; giving him ample time to do it himself. He stated that if the Town chooses to have it done, the estimated final cost will be over \$5,000.00 with the cost of storing the vehicles. Mr. Pierson asked if it is wise to clean up his property for him; he is concerned that the Town will be helping him to make the property more appealing to a buyer. Mr. Engelhart stated that we would place a lien against the property for any money that we spend which will allow for reimbursement when the property is sold. Mr. Finney and Mr. Eller asked why we would need to store the vehicles. Mr. Engelhart stated that it is a requirement according to our ordinance. Mr. Finney and Mr. Eller stated that the vehicles will be easy to get rid of since there is salvage value in all of them. Ms. Burge stated that an RFP will be needed to hire someone to do that.

Attorney's Report

Ms. Burge stated that in reference to the Nicolls matter, she reviewed the violation letter sent by Mr. Engelhart.

She has prepared a draft of the rainy day fund policy for you to think about as you think about capital expenditures for a Town Hall as well as the upcoming budget.

She asked that if Council has any questions about the draft of the personnel policy that they go over that when it is reached on the agenda. She suggested that if there are significant changes to be made, it be done do in a work session and not at a regular meeting.

Old Business

Mayor Custis stated that Ms. Siglin has made the changes to the Town Office plan that were suggested last month as well as created a mock-up comparing the size of the fire house and the current Town office to the size of the new building. Mayor Custis read a list of amenities that will be included. Mr. Higgins added that he spoke with Truss Tech and they will be able to accommodate our wishes for the trusses on the upper floor making the room 24' wide however, they do suggest that we use false dormers. Mayor Custis asked each Council member if they had questions or wished to add anything. Mr. Chance stated that it looked fine. Mr. Strautz, Ms. Dize and Mr. Eller agreed and thanked Ms. Siglin for her help and hard work. Mr. Pierson stated that he is comfortable with the plan and asked about the next step. Mr. Finney stated that he does not like the square building, the dormers on a 5/12 pitch roof or the wasted space in the hallway. This opened up a discussion about the shape of the building and how it could be changed. Mr. Eller stated that we need to ask ourselves if this building fits our needs today. Mayor Custis stated that this building more than fits our needs today. Ms. Salazar agreed. Ms. Dize stated that based on the number of employees, she feels that the size of this building is adequate. She did however question the need for the porches on the plan and stated that she is open to any suggestions that Mr. Finney may make. Mr. Strautz stated that he does not have a problem with removing the dormers. He asked if there is a way to "re-shape" the building. Mr. Higgins stated that he would have to start at square one to make this happen adding that a square building is more energy efficient. Mr. Pierson asked if Mr. Higgins could make the building wider or longer to make the building "non-square". Mayor Custis stated that if changes are made to this floor plan it may not meet our needs. Mr. Higgins stated that he is not inclined to continue working on this project without more definitive answers as to what Council wants in this building.

Motion: To accept the interior design of the building presented by Mr. Higgins by Jack Pierson and seconded by Don Strautz. Vote: Chance-yes; Dize-yes; Eller-no; Finney-no; Pierson-yes; Strautz-yes. MOTION PASSED

Mayor Custis read the Grant Coordinator's Report. A copy will be attached.

Motion: To make the 20% match on the Highway Safety Grant via fuel and vehicle maintenance by Lance Eller and seconded by Don Strautz. Vote: Chance-yes; Dize-yes; Eller-yes; Finney-yes; Pierson-yes; Strautz-yes. MOTION PASSED

Mayor Custis introduced new Planning Commission member, Fred Gardner. She stated that there is another vacancy if anyone is interested.

Mayor Custis presented Council with three quotes for new holiday decorations. The lowest was from Mosca Designs at \$9,473.00 with an additional \$600.00 for shipping.

Motion: To accept the quote from Mosca Designs and purchase the holiday decorations at a price of \$9,473.00 with and additional \$600.00 for shipping by Lance Eller and seconded by Ned Finney. Vote: Chance-yes; Dize-yes; Eller-yes; Finney-yes; Pierson-yes; Strautz-yes. MOTION PASSED

There was no discussion of the garage and pod cleanup.

Mayor Custis presented Council with a design for the new Welcome to Onley signs. Council liked the design and asked to see a sample of the construction material at the next meeting.

Mr. Eller asked to make several changes to the draft personnel policy which was provided to Council earlier in the month. Ms. Burge will make those changes, attach a pay scale and bring back to Council for next month's meeting.

Mr. Eller will work on the RFP for Public Works next week.

Ms. Burge asked that council take a look at the draft Rainy Day Fund Resolution that she provided. She suggested that they take some time to think about the dollar amounts that they would like to add when adopting this resolution and added that the coming budget is the perfect time to do so.

New Business

Council will meet on March 13, 2012 at 6:30 at the fire house to hold the budget work session.

Public Participation

No one signed up to speak. Mayor Custis asked if anyone wished to at this time. Mr. Fred Gardner asked about the possibility of acquiring the agriculture building. Mayor Custis stated that we have and it is not in very good condition and she did not feel it was in the best interest of the Town to pursue it at a minimum cost of \$50,000.00. Mr. John Dennis stated that if anyone sees him driving the Town truck this week it is because it has a flat tire in need of repair and he has offered to take care of it.

Council Comments

Mr. Chance thanked everyone for coming.

Mr. Strautz had no comment.

Ms. Dize had no comment.

Mr. Pierson had no comment.

Mr. Eller had no comment.

Mr. Finney thanked Mr. Gardner for coming onto the Planning Commission and Ms. Siglin for her work on the building plan.

Motion: To recess at 8:57pm until March 13, 2012 at 6:30 by Lance Eller and seconded by Ned Finney.

Vote: Chance=yes; Dize=yes; Eller=yes; Finney=yes; Pierson=yes; Strautz=yes. MOTION PASSED

Jamye Salazar, Treasurer

Billye D. Custis, Mayor